Programme Implementation, Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation. A *Statement* showing allocation of Central assistance for Basic Minimum Services for 1996-97 (excluding Rs. 250 crores for slums schemes) and the amount released to State Governments till 27.11.1996 is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Allocation of Central Assistance for Basic Minimum Services-(Excluding Rs. 250 crore for slum scheme) for 1996-97 and amount Released to the State Governments there against till 27.11.1996.

(Rs. crores)

	States	Allocated	Released
I.	**Special Category States :**		
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	62.18	15.55
2.	Assam	154.14	38.53
3.	Himachal Pradesh	64.41	16.10
4.	J and K	156.52	39.13
5.	Manipur	44.30	11.08
6.	Meghalaya	37.03	9.26
7.	Mizoram	36.87	9.22
8.	Nagaland	37.53	9.38
9.	Sikkim	25.65	6.41
10.	Tripura	46.37	11.59
	Total-I	665.00	166.25
II.	**Non-SPL Category States :**		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	140.52	35.13
2.	Bihar	225.67	56.42
3.	Goa	1.55	0.39
4.	Gujarat	52.58	13.15
5.	Haryana	19.08	4.77
6.	Karnataka	59.40	14.85
7.	Kerala	69.64	17.41
8.	Madhya Pradesh	144.09	36.02
9.	Maharashtra	96.78	24.20
10.	Orissa	79.26	19.82
11.	Punjab	25.59	6.40
12.	Rajasthan	87.63	21.91
13.	Tamil Nadu	82.36	20.59
14.	Uttar Pradesh	317.33	79.33
15.	West Bengal	150.00	37.50
	Total-II	1551.48	387.89
	Grand Total (I+II)	2216.48	554.14

Top Posts of PSUs

1264. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the vacant top posts of Public Sector Undertakings are not being processed for the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Filling up of vacant top posts of Public Sector undertakings is a continuous process.

[Translation]

Training Centres in Bihar

1265. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of training centres under self-employment scheme run by the Government in Bihar and the assistance provided to the technically trained persons of these centres; and

(b) whether the Government propose to set up more such training centres in Bihar in view of the regional requirements?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The Government is implementing various schemes to create self employment all over the country including in the State of Bihar. Most of the Schemes are operated through the agencies of State Government/ NGOs/other institutions, who are given funds/grant-in-aid by Central Government Departments.

As per reports received from concerned Government Departments, there are 120 training Centres in Bihar and nearly 29,000 persons are bring trained every year the self employment Scheme.

Assistance is provided to all such technically trained persons of these Centres for setting up self-employment enterprises.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Scheme to Promote Production and Export From U.P.

1266. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal/scheme from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for promoting production in the State and export of their products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A proposal submitted by the Government of U.P. for system improvement scheme at Moradabad has already been approved under the 'Crucial Balancing Investment Scheme' in which Central Government's contribution is of Rs. 8 crores. The total project is estimated to be Rs. 12.41 crores. The project is to be executed by the U.P. State Electricity Board for which the State Govt. has already formed a Committee to oversee the implementation. On the basis of the proposal received from the Government of U.P., the Ministry of Commerce has also approved the establishment of Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) at Surajpur-Kasna, District Ghaziabad. The Park is under development.

[English]

Indo-Russian Talk on Direct Taxes

1267. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the outcome of the fourth round of Indo-Russian talks on direct tax issues held in Moscow in October last; and

(b) the efforts made by India in to ensure that a treaty is emerged out of these talks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The fourth round of Indo-Russian talks was held in Moscow from 15th to 18th October, 1996 for finalisation of a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between India and the Russian Federation. The talks were held in a very friendly and cordial atmosphere and certain issues which required further consideration were discussed and settled amicably during this final round of negotiations. The Agreement has thus been initialed at the official level as a result of the said discussions and further steps are being taken for its formal signing soon.

Rubber Plantation in Non-Traditional Areas

1268. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI N. DENNIS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to encourage plantation particularly rubber plantation in the non-traditional areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total area of land proposed to be covered under this scheme; and

(c) the total fund allocated for this purpose during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A Statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Details of schemes to encourage plantations including rubber plantations in the non-traditional areas

Rubber :

During 1995-96 an area of 2092.13 hectare was planted in the non-traditional areas and during 1996-97, the target is 3570 hectare. Rubber Board is implementing the following schemes for the development of rubber plantations in the non-traditional areas.

(1) Rubber Plantation Development Scheme provides a financial assistance of Rs. 8,000 per ha and reimbursement of Planting material at Rs. 3,000 per ha. For SC/ST categories, the reimbursement is at Rs. 4,000 per ha.

(2) Boundary protection scheme provides assistance at Rs. 1,500 per ha. For SC/ST categories, it is Rs. 4,000 per ha.

(3) Supply of fertilizers at 50% subsidised cost during the first four years of planting to SC/ST growers.

(4) Assistance for irrigation at Rs. 5,000 per ha.

(5) Assistance for setting up community processing centre.

(6) Other schemes, such as distribution of planting materials, block plantation for tribals and SC training, setting up demonstration plots, setting up District Development Centres for imparting training to growers and other personnel involved in plantation management. In Tripura, a Tribal Development Plan is implemented with the assistance of the Govt. of Tripura and World Bank.

The amount spent on the development of rubber plantation in the non-traditional regions during the last three years are as under :

1993-94	Rs. 570.26 lakh
1994-95	Rs. 592.84 lakh
1995-96	Rs. 620.97 lakh

Coffee :

Several specific Plan and Non-Plan Projects are being operated in the Non-traditional areas during the VIII Plan period with an objective to provide Extension,